

Dan Brand and Tipi

WAY BACK, WHEN OUR COUNTRY WAS YOUNG, THE WEST WAS STILL EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND THE TRULY GREAT AMERICANS WERE THE INTREPID PIONEERS OF THE BACKWOODS OF NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO—WHERE THE WOODS WERE THICK AND SOWN WITH SUDDEN DEATH... THE GREATEST OF THE BACKWOODSMEN WAS **DAN BRAND**—ANCESTOR OF STEVE BRAND—AND HIS LITTLE INDIAN FRIEND, **TIPi**, WHO BLAZED NEW TRAILS OF ADVENTURE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW, PUSHING CIVILIZATION AND JUSTICE ACROSS THE CONTINENT OF THE "NEW" WORLD! HERE WAS WHITE AMERICAN AND BROWN AMERICAN FIGHTING COMMON DEADLY ENEMIES SIDE BY SIDE!



OF COURSE DAN BRAND WASN'T ALWAYS A PIONEER. NO, THERE WAS A TIME...

...IN 1770! ALL PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY TURNS OUT FOR THE WEDDING OF WEALTHY YOUNG DAN BRAND AND HIS SWEETHEART, LUCY WHARTON...

A FINE MATCH—TWO OF THE PROUDEST NAMES IN THE COLONIES! I GUESS THE BEST MAN WON, EH?

RIGHT! BUT I'M SURE THE OTHER MAN, PETER BRADFORD, DOESN'T THINK SO... SAY, THERE'S BRADFORD NOW, ON THAT BALCONY! WHY HE'S -- LOOK OUT, DAN!

IF I CAN'T HAVE HER, NO ONE ELSE WILL! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, DAN BRAND!

PUT THAT PISTOL AWAY, BRADFORD!





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THE DURANGO KID



I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S THE FOOL...!

NO! DON'T SHOOT! PETER, PLEASE DON'T — OH-H-H-H-H—

LUCY! LUCY!



SHE TRIED TO PROTECT HIM.

LUCY! DARLING — SPEAK! ...SHE'S DEAD! OH, LUCY!



I WANT BRADFORD! BRING HIM TO ME!

HE'S DISAPPEARED! HE MUST HAVE ESCAPED IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT!



FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE FUNERAL...

I HAVE BUT ONE PURPOSE IN LIVING NOW--TO MAKE BRADFORD PAY FOR THIS!

SOB



BRADFORD'S TRAIL LED WESTWARD!

YUP. STRANGER ANSWERIN' TO YER DESCRIPTION PASSED THROUGH HERE AFORE YESTIDDY--ON THE TRAIL FOR FORT BEDFORD, AN IN A HURRY TOO. BUT I WARN YE, YOUNG FELLER--IT'S MIGHTY RUGGED OUT THERE FOR A TOWN-BRED CHAP LIKE YOU!



BUT DAN BRANDISHED RELENTLESSLY WESTWARD, OLD HATRED IN HIS HEART. HE CROSSED RIVERS, GREAT SHAGGY MOUNTAINS—HE BORED THROUGH MIGHTY FORESTS ALONG UNKNOWN TRAILS. ONLY AN IRON WILL FOR VENGEANCE KEPT HIM GOING—FOR HIS TOWN-BRED MUSCLES AND TEA-PARTY WAYS WERE PUNY WEAPONS AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE ELEMENTS AND THE TRACKLESS VASTNESS OF THE WILDERNESS...

BUT AT LAST...

LOST! I MUST HAVE TRAVELED IN

A CIRCLE-- I KNOW I'VE BEEN AT THIS SPOT BEFORE! I'M SO EXHAUSTED BUT GOT TO GO ON-- GOT TO...



A BEAR! MY RIFLE...!

THE DURANGO KID



DAN DUCKS THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE ENRAGED BEAST OF THE FOREST, BUT A SLASHING BLOW FROM THE SLEDGEHAMMER PAW...



THE DURANGO KID



I HONOR YOUR MISSION OF VENGEANCE, MY SON. BUT HERE IS AN OLD MAN'S ADVICE—STAY WITH US AWHILE AND RECOVER YOUR HEALTH. WE WILL TEACH YOU THE WAYS OF THE FOREST, THE INDIAN LORE...



... AND THEN YOU WILL CONQUER BOTH THE WILDERNESS AND YOUR ENEMY. THE STRONG OF HEART DO NOT THROW THEMSELVES FOOLISHLY INTO DANGER, BUT PREPARE THEMSELVES! LET US TEACH YOU CUNNING AND GIVE YOU STRENGTH!

YOU SPEAK WISE WORDS, GREAT DEER. I WILL STAY! AND I WILL LEARN ALL YOU CAN TEACH, SO THAT I CAN OVERCOME MY ENEMY!

WEEKS PASSED BY...

A FINE SHOT! YOU PICKED UP HIS TRAIL WITH CLEVERNESS AND YOU KEPT HIM BETWEEN THE WIND AND YOU, SO HE WOULD NOT PICK UP YOUR MAN SMELL! YOU ARE A GOOD PUPIL, MY BOY!

YOU'LL STAY WITH US, WON'T YOU, DAN BRAND—AND BE MY BROTHER?



AND THE WEEKS ROLLED INTO MONTHS—RIGOROUS MONTHS THAT TEMPERED DAN'S MUSCLES TO STEEL...

QUICKLY, DAN—NOW—WHILE HE IS TURNING! LESS MUSCLE AND MORE SKILL, MY SON! AH, THAT'S IT! GOOD!

I GIVE, DAN BRAND—THE MATCH IS YOURS, BY THE SPIRIT OF MY ANCESTORS. YOU ARE GETTING TOO GOOD FOR ME!



A SOLID YEAR PASSED, UNTIL...

MY MISSION IS STILL UNFULFILLED, GREAT DEER—SO NOW I MUST GO. I LOOK ON YOU AS A FATHER, MY NOBLE TEACHER.

MY HEART IS PAINED AT YOUR LEAVING—HAH, WHAT IS THIS?

GREAT DEER! GREAT DEER!



QUICK, DEFEND YOURSELVES! THEY ATTACK! THEY ATTACK! THEY—AHH-H-H-H...!

HE'S DEAD! TO THE DEFENSES, EVERYONE!



THE DURANGO KID



THE DURANGO KID



